

SEVENTY-NINTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

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MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-FOUR



STUDENT INSTITUTE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

OFFICE

1000 North 10th Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

Year Ending February 28, 1934

Seventy-ninth Annual Report

of the

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

for the

Year Ending February 28, 1934

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS

### Board of Trustees

Year Ending February 28, 1934

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CONSTANT MEESE.....First Vice-President  
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### Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

Acting Librarian.....MARY O. CARMODY  
Cataloguer.....ALICE V. WRIGHT  
Chief, Circulation Department.....HELEN D. BRYANT

### Assistants

JOHN C. STUMP	VIVIEN H. GROVES
MARJORIE O'SHEA	DORIS ASPLUND
IRENE R. LANGENDORF	ROSE M. O'TOOLE

### Evening Assistants

VICTOR ROMAIN  
CECILIA DONOGHUE

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

### Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

### Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

57 Post Street

San Francisco, California

The Library now contains nearly one hundred and twenty-five thousand volumes.

Special attention is given to the division of technology.

Over five hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.

A chess and checker room is maintained, where smoking is permitted.

Lecture courses are held each season.

Library open daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Sunday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Chess room, daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

### TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee .....\$ 1.00

Half-yearly Dues (in advance)..... 3.00

Life Membership ..... 100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city), who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

### LIBRARY RULES

Members may take out four books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

New fiction may be kept one week only. Other books may be kept two weeks and the time may be extended for two weeks longer by giving notice at the Library desk, or by mail or telephone GARfield 1750. A charge of two cents a day will be made on books kept over time.

Members' requests for books to be purchased will receive careful consideration.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 8, 1934.

*To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:*

I have the honor to present to you the seventy-ninth annual report of the President of the Mechanics' Institute.

It is with great sorrow that I have to report the passing away on December 1st last of Francis B. Graves, the Librarian of the Mechanics' Institute. All of us who knew Mr. Graves during the many years of his association with this Institute feel a personal loss in his passing. No words that I can use could better express our feelings than the tribute paid to him in the resolutions drawn up by our fellow Trustee, Mr. William Penn Humphreys and unanimously passed by your Board of Trustees:

"Francis Barnum Graves, one of the pillars of the Mechanics' Institute, for 26 years Librarian of the Mechanics'-Mercantile Library, while in active service was stricken at his desk on November 17, 1933, and passed away a fortnight later. Born in San Francisco in 1863 of pioneer parents, he first became associated with our Library in February, 1885, and was Assistant Librarian when he resigned in 1899 to become Librarian of the Alameda Public Library. He was unanimously chosen in November, 1907, to succeed Frederick J. Teggart as our Librarian, a position which he filled with credit and ability until December 1, 1933. He was closely connected with the Mechanics' Institute for over 40 years—more than half of the life of our institution.

"Our deceased friend possessed in full measure, not only a wide knowledge of literature, but also an even wider knowledge of humanity. He was an ideal librarian, ever eager and anxious to aid our members, and to extend this aid with courtesy and sympathy. He was observing; he was shrewd; he was quiet and yet always made his presence felt; he had a vein of genial humor that smoothed over many a trying situation; his contacts with our members were marked with gentleness, and yet with firmness and dignity; and our Library is the better because of him and the admirable qualities that were his.

"He was a brave soldier who fell with his face to the front in the battle of life; and he has deserved well of all who

"knew him, and of the community in which, for so many years, he lived a useful, an honorable and an upright life.

"Be it Resolved, therefore, that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, and that an engrossed copy thereof be presented to the family of our late Librarian."

In the interest of economy the position of Librarian has not yet been filled. Mrs. Mary O. Carmody, who has been connected with this library for many years and for three years past has been the Assistant Librarian, is now acting Librarian, and no increase has been made in the library staff. While this has entailed extra work on the employees the efficiency of the library and its service to the members have not been impaired. During the year the Institute has suffered financially from the general depression. The rents from the Institute building have materially decreased on account of vacancies in the offices and reductions in rent. This condition exists not only in San Francisco but over this entire country and is a matter of much concern to owners of similar properties. The revenue from the building has dropped off a little over \$6000.00 from the revenue of the previous year. The membership has suffered a decrease of two hundred and seventy and the revenue from dues has fallen off about \$1000.00 from that of last year. The service of the library to its members, however, has not been reduced and the amount expended for books, bindings and periodicals is practically the same as for the previous year.

I am happy to state that the salaries of the employees have not been reduced and all the members of the library staff have been retained in their positions.

It has been the policy of your Trustees for many years to set aside a surplus every year from earnings on our investments but, due to conditions, the surplus this year is materially reduced. In previous years our surplus has often been over \$20,000.00; last year it was \$10,000.00 but this year it has dropped, as shown in the Secretary's report, to \$4121.29. This surplus, however, will be increased about \$3000.00 from rents of this building which are still due and which we believe are good and will be collected.

During the year a donation of \$1000.00 was received from a gentleman who does not wish his name made public. On this matter of donations it is of interest to note that the Mechanics' Institute has rarely been the recipient of cash gifts. Many years



ago James Lick gave the Institute \$10,000.00; later a donation was received of \$500.00 and this donation of \$1000.00 received this year, together with the ones above mentioned, are practically all the cash gifts ever received by this Institute. It is a matter of pride with us that the Mechanics' Institute has always stood on its own feet and has asked favors of no one.

Our situation today, comparatively speaking, is most excellent. The Institute owns its building without any incumbrance, the library is entirely paid for and the Institute's investments in bonds, mortgages and cash on hand are in the neighborhood of \$750,000.00. Not one of the bonds it owns is in default. The vacancies in the building, however, are giving us much concern and while it would be difficult to find any tenants at the present time we have under consideration plans that might increase its tenancy by reason of the special advantages this building has for certain classes of tenants.

I stated above that the membership has fallen off by two hundred and seventy. While this is regrettable in one sense, it is not any cause for alarm. Your Trustees have not used any efforts to try to increase the membership. While we welcome all persons interested in joining the Institute it must be borne in mind that the library service cannot be given for fifty cents a month at any profit to the Institute. The history of subscription libraries throughout the United States has shown that they have all had to go out of existence except where they had large endowments or, as is the fortunate case with the Mechanics' Institute, they had accumulated a large surplus. It is impossible to furnish good quarters with adequate service of employees, supply general periodicals, scientific and technical magazines, as well as to provide serious literature and the latest fiction also, all for fifty cents a month. You will see from the Secretary's report that the operating deficit of the library this year is over \$41,000.00. Our library has the reputation of being the best technical library west of Chicago, for which we have ample testimony from those who use our facilities.

It is true we have complaints from time to time that members cannot get the latest books. This complaint goes to the matter of supplying fiction; it is not and cannot be the function of the Institute to supply all the latest fiction promptly to those who wish it. A reasonable amount of fiction can be supplied but we cannot and do not expect to compete with the many

circulating libraries now in existence in this city. Discrimination must be practised also as to the quality of the fiction; in these days there seems to be a flood of ephemeral fiction that is written for sensation alone, much of it not in good taste to say the least; in my judgment it is not good policy to cater to any extent to the demand for such books.

We have held our usual course of lectures this year and the large attendance shows the interest of our members in them.

We wish all our members to feel that this is their library and their Institute; that we as Trustees are merely their servants and that we welcome all constructive criticism that will tend to make the Institute more serviceable to its members.

In closing I wish to express the confidence your Trustees have in the devotion, ability and integrity of our Secretary, Mr. John H. Wood, and I further wish to pay a tribute to our acting Librarian, Mrs. Carmody, and to all the members of the library staff, to our building engineer, Mr. Finnegan, and to the building employees for their interest in and devoted attention to their work.

In conclusion I take pleasure in acknowledging the unfailing courtesy and co-operation of my fellow Trustees.

JOSEPH M. CUMMING, President.



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending February 28, 1934

San Francisco, March 8, 1934.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,  
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1934:

March 1, 1933, Cash on deposit in various banks.....\$ 80,440.22  
Cash in contingent funds..... 450.00

Total Cash .....\$ 81,290.22

### RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections  
from March 1, 1933, to February 28, 1934..\$ 37,967.82  
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund... 30.00  
Interest, James Lick Fund..... 600.00  
Interest, Commercial and Savings Account... 1,593.12  
Interest, Mortgage Receivable Accounts..... 7,505.75  
Interest, Bonds ..... 28,040.60  
Gift ..... 1,000.00  
Third Street Property, Income Account..... 3,134.25  
Library and General Administration:  
Dues .....\$ 18,442.80  
Entrance Fees ..... 533.00  
Books Paid For ..... 185.95  
Fines and Extra Books..... 2,169.95  
Sundry ..... 33.54

21,365.24

\$101,236.78

Received from Investments Accounts:

Bonds Matured .....\$ 25,200.00  
Mortgage Matured ..... 3,500.00  
Bond Discount ..... 309.23

29,009.23

Total Cash Received.....\$130,246.01

\$211,536.23

### EXPENDITURES

Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1933, to February 28, 1934:

Pay Roll .....\$ 14,251.50  
Taxes ..... 8,402.88  
Insurance ..... 1,326.00  
Heat ..... 814.88  
Light and Power..... 2,537.08  
Water ..... 332.44  
Window Cleaning ..... 420.00  
Supplies ..... 311.73  
Repairs ..... 863.51

General Expense ..... 387.13  
Alterations ..... 73.00  
Equipment ..... 25.92

\$ 29,746.07

Library and General Administration:

Books, Binding and Periodicals..\$ 10,933.84  
Furniture and Equipment..... 15.38  
General Expense ..... 2,493.49  
Insurance ..... 909.45  
Legal Expense ..... 250.00  
Lectures ..... 548.52  
Printing and Stationery..... 484.49  
Salaries ..... 27,648.68  
Supplies ..... 464.00  
Taxes ..... 46.98  
Monthly Bulletin ..... 171.22  
Rent of Library Rooms..... 18,720.00  
Sundry ..... .08

62,686.13

General Accounts:

Mortgage Renewed ..... 3,500.00  
Post Street Building, Cost Acct. 100.00

3,600.00

Third Street Property:

Insurance ..... 169.67  
Taxes ..... 723.54  
Expense ..... 190.08

1,083.29

Total .....\$ 97,115.49

Investments Account:

Bonds purchased (Par Value)..\$ 84,000.00  
Bond Premium Account ..... 3,831.79

Total .....\$ 87,831.79

Total Cash paid out.....\$184,947.28

Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 28, 1934..\$ 26,138.95

Cash on hand in contingent funds..... 450.00

Total Cash on hand.....\$ 26,588.95

\$211,536.23

### SUMMARY

Cash on hand, March 1, 1933.....\$ 81,290.22

Total Receipts .....\$101,236.78

Total Expense ..... 97,115.49

Excess Receipts ..... 4,121.29

Received from Investments Accounts..... 29,009.23

\$114,420.74

### DISTRIBUTION

Cash on hand and in various banks, Feb. 28, 1934..\$ 26,138.95

Cash in contingent funds..... 450.00

Total Cash .....\$ 26,588.95



Investments made from surplus..... 87,831.79

\$114,420.74

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books and Periodicals, and Binding of new Books has been. \$326,293.42

The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the Post Street Building has been..... 389,285.81

Insurance is carried as follows:

Books .....\$100,000.00

Furniture ..... 7,500.00

Post Street Building..... 286,500.00

The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post St. lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.

N. W. corner Third and Stillman Streets, San Francisco.

First Mortgages for \$135,100.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.

Bonds to the par value of \$612,951.40, as follows:

\$192,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%.  
 10,200.00 San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.  
 22,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Water 4½%.  
 29,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Golden Gate Park 3½%.  
 5,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5%.  
 21,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 4½%.  
 10,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5¾%.  
 200.00 San Francisco, Cal., Library 3½%.  
 1,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Playground 3½%.  
 8,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., School 4½%.  
 4,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., School 5%.  
 1,357.50 Berkeley, Cal., Municipal Improvement 4½%.  
 5,000.00 Berkeley, Cal., School District 5%.  
 1,875.00 Chico, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 3,000.00 Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 55,000.00 East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.  
 2,000.00 Exeter, Cal., Union High School District 5%.  
 2,000.00 Gilroy, Cal. School District 5%.  
 2,000.00 Grass Valley, Cal., High School District 6%.  
 2,000.00 Hanford, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 3,000.00 Livermore, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 1,000.00 Los Angeles Harbor Improvement 5%.  
 10,000.00 Marin, Cal., Municipal Water District 5%.  
 1,000.00 Merced, Cal., Union High School 6%.  
 4,393.90 Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 700.00 Nevada City, Cal., Sewer 6%.  
 7,000.00 Oakland, Cal., School District 5%.  
 2,500.00 Oakland, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.  
 5,000.00 Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.  
 3,000.00 Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 1,000.00 Placerville, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 1,000.00 Placerville, Cal., Municipal Street Work 5%.  
 3,000.00 Placerville, Cal., School District 5%.  
 1,000.00 Richmond, Cal., School District 4½%.

5,000.00 Richmond, Cal., School District 5½%.  
 2,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., Filtration 4½%.  
 7,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., New Levee 4½%.  
 5,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., School District 4½%.  
 8,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4½%.  
 4,000.00 Salinas, Cal., Union High School District 5%.  
 1,000.00 San Luis Obispo, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.  
 9,000.00 San Luis Obispo, Cal., School District 6%.  
 1,000.00 San Mateo, Cal., Union High School 6%.  
 1,125.00 Santa Barbara, Cal., School District 4½%.  
 1,000.00 Santa Maria, Cal., Union High School District 6%.  
 10,000.00 Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.  
 1,000.00 Sequoia, (San Mateo Co., Cal.), Union High School District 6%.  
 10,000.00 Stockton, Cal., School District 5%.  
 2,600.00 Visalia, Cal., Municipal Improvement 6%.  
 5,000.00 Washington, (Alameda Co., Cal.), Union High School District 5%.  
 1,000.00 Williams, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.  
 24,000.00 Butte County, Cal., Highway 5%.  
 1,000.00 Contra Costa County, Cal., 5%.  
 15,000.00 Fresno County, Cal., 5%.  
 5,000.00 Merced County, Cal., 5%.  
 2,000.00 San Mateo County, Cal., Highway 5%.  
 7,000.00 Sonoma County, Cal., 5%.  
 10,000.00 California State Highway 4¾%.  
 20,000.00 California State Highway 5%.  
 5,000.00 California State Highway 5¾%.  
 15,000.00 California State Harbor 4%.  
 5,000.00 California State University Building 4½%.  
 10,000.00 California State Veterans' Welfare 4½%.  
 Cash on hand, March 1, 1934, \$26,588.95.  
 Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. WOOD, Secretary.

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

San Francisco, March 8, 1934.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

Gentlemen: I herewith submit the Seventy-ninth Annual Report of the Library for the year ending February 28, 1934.

## Membership

March 1, 1933.....	4,166
Added—Subscribing .....	541
Reinstated .....	4
	545
	4,711
Withdrawn—Life (deceased) .....	58
Subscribing .....	757
	815

Membership February 28, 1934..... 3,896

During the year fifteen subscribing members who had paid continuously for thirty years were, according to the Constitution, made life members.

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary .....	2
Life .....	604
Subscribing .....	3,290
	3,896

## Book Accessions

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1933.....	121,666
Added by purchase .....	3,117
Added by binding .....	471
Added by gift .....	280
	3,868
	125,534
Less lost, paid for, and discarded.....	49
Donated to institutions.....	1,060
	1,109

Number of volumes listed February 28, 1934..... 124,425

## Binding

799 volumes were rebound at the bindery and 4,668 volumes were repaired in the Library.

## Gifts

2,686 unbound items, consisting of pamphlets, serials, and newspapers, were presented to the Library.

## Accessions by Classes

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works .....	39	\$ 195.35	67	\$ 147.50	17	123
Philosophy .....	74	135.56	4	8.00	8	86
Religion .....	27	57.52	2	4.00	1	30
Sociology .....	254	718.35	44	106.95	82	380
Philology .....	7	12.95			1	8
Science .....	81	269.62	76	163.10	19	176
Useful Arts .....	173	566.80	208	481.16	92	473
Fine Arts .....	126	351.06	49	114.80	4	179

Literature .....	221	402.88	4	8.00	9	234
Foreign Literature .....	3	2.86			32	35
Travel .....	170	429.27	7	14.40	2	179
Biography .....	271	707.67	2	4.00	5	278
History .....	127	307.09	8	16.80	5	140
Fiction and Children's Books.....	1544	2,556.83			3	1547
	3117	\$6,713.81	471	\$1,068.71	280	3868

## Circulation

There were issued for home use 230,545 volumes, an average monthly circulation of 19,212 volumes.

## Table of Circulation Statistics

General Works .....	529	Foreign Literature .....	485
Philosophy .....	4,705	Foreign Fiction .....	885
Religion .....	1,459	Travel .....	11,864
Sociology .....	6,676	Biography .....	15,361
Philology .....	95	History .....	7,883
Science .....	4,251	Fiction .....	140,996
Useful Arts .....	7,816	Periodicals .....	6,145
Fine Arts .....	7,574		
Literature .....	13,821		230,545
Fiction .....	140,996	volumes, 61.16	per cent
Non-fiction .....	89,549	" 38.84	" "

Adult Books ..... 229,544 volumes, 99.57 per cent  
Children's Books ..... 1,001 " 0.43 " "

Respectfully submitted,

MARY O. CARMODY, Acting Librarian.



## APPENDIX

Year Ending Feb. 28	Membership			Volumes in Library	Circula- tion
	Sub- scribing	Life and Honorary	Total		
1934 .....	3,290	604	3,896	124,425	230,545
1933 .....	3,517	649	4,166	121,666	250,140
1932 .....	3,835	664	4,499	118,928	254,205
1931 .....	3,878	666	4,546	114,347	237,974
1930 .....	3,748	677	4,425	108,697	208,552
1929 .....	3,657	679	4,336	103,123	176,174
1928 .....	3,789	703	4,492	98,195	165,253
1927 .....	4,032	702	4,734	102,056	161,980
1926 .....	4,030	690	4,723	98,696	164,347
1925 .....	4,170	690	4,860	94,992	169,631
1924 .....	4,356	652	5,008	91,433	172,712
1923 .....	4,317	657	4,974	87,855	172,902
1922 .....	4,160	646	4,806	84,056	175,502
1921 .....	3,842	650	4,492	80,776	150,376
1920 .....	3,408	649	4,057	77,140	128,480
1919 .....	2,994	653	3,647	73,128	101,728
1918 .....	3,135	590	3,725	70,055	118,159
1917 .....	3,144	598	3,742	65,875	132,721
1916 .....	2,982	617	3,599	63,672	127,866
1915 .....	2,862	626	3,488	56,740	131,687
1914 .....	2,709	632	3,341	50,776	125,650
1913 .....	2,855	643	3,498	44,527	118,998
1912 .....	2,660	644	3,304	39,266	110,194
1911 .....	2,385	651	3,036	35,392	88,753
1910 .....	1,717	645	2,362	32,186	71,741
1909 .....	2,034	646	2,680	28,324	83,042
1908 .....	2,120	643	2,763	24,179	.....
1907 .....	2,726	651	3,377	17,850	.....
April 18, 1906	....	...	4,150	.....	.....

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

## In Print

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering.  
January, 1918.

List of books added, 1914 to date.

List of periodical literature on file in the Mechanics' Institute  
Library, 1928. Compiled by Mary O. Carmody.

Seventy-five years of history of the Mechanics' Institute, compiled  
by John H. Wood, Secretary, 1930.

# APPENDIX

Year	Mammals		Total	Per cent
	Number	Weight		
1910	100	100	100	100
1911	100	100	100	100
1912	100	100	100	100
1913	100	100	100	100
1914	100	100	100	100
1915	100	100	100	100
1916	100	100	100	100
1917	100	100	100	100
1918	100	100	100	100
1919	100	100	100	100
1920	100	100	100	100
1921	100	100	100	100
1922	100	100	100	100
1923	100	100	100	100
1924	100	100	100	100
1925	100	100	100	100
1926	100	100	100	100
1927	100	100	100	100
1928	100	100	100	100
1929	100	100	100	100
1930	100	100	100	100
1931	100	100	100	100
1932	100	100	100	100
1933	100	100	100	100
1934	100	100	100	100
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1991	100	100	100	100
1992	100	100	100	100
1993	100	100	100	100
1994	100	100	100	100
1995	100	100	100	100
1996	100	100	100	100
1997	100	100	100	100
1998	100	100	100	100
1999	100	100	100	100
2000	100	100	100	100

1. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1910-1919.  
 2. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1920-1929.  
 3. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1930-1939.  
 4. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1940-1949.  
 5. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1950-1959.  
 6. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1960-1969.  
 7. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1970-1979.  
 8. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1980-1989.  
 9. List of mammals collected in the United States, 1990-1999.  
 10. List of mammals collected in the United States, 2000-2009.